

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6266
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 3794

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

WASHINGTON FOR AF MOOSE AND INR SAUDERS ONLY
INFO ADDRESSEES FOR AMBASSADORS ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: RH, US, TZ
SUBJECT: REPORTS ON NYERERE'S "OWN" ZIMBABWE ARMY

1. IN RECENT WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MENTIONS IN THE PRESS
AND IN CLASSIFIED REPORTING OF NYERERE'S "OWN" ZIMBABWE ARMY,
PRESUMABLY THE 5,000 FIGHTERS AT NACHINGWEA IN TANZANIA.
THE BRITISH ALSO APPARENTLY HAVE THIS STORY IN RATHER EXTREME
FORM.

2. TALK ABOUT "NYERERE'S ARMY" DISTURBS ME FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

(A) AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY AND THE STATION HERE KNOW, THERE
IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT IT. THE GUERRILLAS AT NACHINGWEA

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HAVE PROBABLY BEEN SUBJECT TO SOME EDUCATION FOR UNITY AND ARE
LIKELY ALSO DISSATISFIED WITH THE SELF-SERVING BICKERING OF THEIR
LEADERS. HOWEVER, THEY ARE OF ZANU ORIGIN; SOME OF THEM HAVE
ALREADY BEEN MOVED TO MOZAMBIQUE (ZANU COUNTRY), AND WE
HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT NYERERE HAS OR IS TRYING TO ESTABLISH
PARTICULAR CONTROL OVER THEM.

(B) SUCH TALK WILL INEVITABLY WORRY AND INFURIATE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS AND POSSIBLY ALSO OTHER FRONT LINE LEADERS AND CAUSE THEM TO DISTRUST NYERERE.

(C) THE STORY IS SOMETIME ATTRIBUTED TO US OFFICIALS AND DESCRIBED AS A PLAN AGREED TO BY NYERERE AND THE US DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. (DAVID MARTIN OF THE LONDON OBSERVER ASSURED ME LAST WEEK THAT IT ORIGINATED IN A BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFING BY A SENIOR US OFFICIAL AT LAGOS DURING THE ANTI-APARTHEID MEETING THERE AND WAS CONFIRMED BY NIGERIAN OFFICIALS QUOTING AMERICAN SOURCES.)

(D) APART FROM ANY DAMAGE THE STORY MAY DO TO NYERERE'S INFLUENCE AND THE PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION AMONG ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS, IT IS LIKELY TO MAKE NYERERE HIMSELF ANGRY AND SUSPICIOUS OF US, ESPECIALLY IF HE COMES TO THINK IT HAS A US ORIGIN.

3. WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE PROBLEM? IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IT, WITHOUT STRETCHING, WE COULD FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CLEAR PUBLICLY THAT WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE LIBERATION FORCES, WE MEAN THE TROOPS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS NKOMO AND MUGABE, SIMPLY BECAUSE THERE ARE NO OTHERS. IF THE STORY CONTINUES TO BUILD UP, WE MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER PRIVATE ASSURANCES TO NYERERE, KAUNDA, NKOMO, AND MUGABE. DONE PREMATURELY, HOWEVER, THESE COULD ACERBATE RATHER THAN NULLIFY SUSPICIONS, AND I DON'T
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THINK WE SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON IT AT THE MOMENT.

4. INDEED, MY FIRST APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM IN THE HOPE THAT IT WILL DISSIPATE ITSELF WOULD BE A NEGATIVE ONE: (A) DON'T TALK ABOUT IT ANY MORE THAN WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO -- EVEN AMONG OURSELVES AND WITH FRIENDS -- SINCE THIS KIND OF DISCUSSION OF A NEW AND INTERESTING IDEA TENDS TO SNOWBALL, WHICH IS WHAT I SUSPECT MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE PRESENT STORY, AND (B) IF ANY US OFFICIALS REALLY THINK THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE STORY -- AND, IF I AM CORRECT THAT THERE IS NOT --DISABUSE THEM OF THE IDEA.

5. IF I AM MISSING SOMETHING IN THE PICTURE I SEE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.
SPAIN

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